The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor-minded; to the trade union movement, and contains other information of trial, legislative, and judicial fields.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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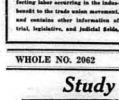
Samuel Gompers said:
We are fighting for the liberties of all our people, not only today, but for all time.

WHOLE NO. 2062 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 49, NO. 42

## *Study in England*



Bronxville, N. Y.—James E. Wolfe (left), Louisville, Ky., assistant director Kentucky Federation of Labor research and education department, and Miss Carla Ruth Myerson (right), Washington, D. C., American Federation of Teachers Local 199, discuss with Dr. Harold Taylor, president Sarah Lawrence College, details of the labor scholarships they received to study a year at Ruskin College, Oxford, England. The two A.F.L. union members began their work abroad in October.

# LLPE Offers 7-Point Plan to Get Out Vote Nov. 7

# Green Says Gompers Taught Need to Vote

### *Promises Labor Will Never Again Neglect Use of Ballot*

Wellesley, Mass.—Good citizenship and good trade unionism require active participation at the polls as well as at the union hall.

AFL President William Green said that is the most valuable lesson that Samuel Gompers taught the American worker.

"The reverses which labor has suffered when it neglected the political sphere, while its adversaries took full advantage of it, have given a renewed meaning to this basic precept of Gompers," Mr. Green told the 4th annual conference of business men and educators conducted by the Babson Institute of Business Administration.

"Any future failure on that issue may suffer will not be due to the neglect of this precept," Mr. Green promised.

"The American labor movement has never strayed from the basic path laid down by Samuel Gompers. It does not propose to do so. As long as it remains in that path, democracy will continue as a living force."

Mr. Green said that the AFL saved the United States from a new system of feudal serfdom by introducing democracy into our industrial life. He said:

"Trade unionism has demonstrated to the world that there has never been anything wrong with capitalism that higher wages and shorter hours could not cure.

"It has shown that capitalism can mean more democracy, not less, and that it can mate material, cultural, and social progress and improvement in the many, rather than the few.

"Modern trade unionism is an outgrowth of industrial capitalism, and has provided the mechanism whereby the fruits of capitalism have been distributed over an ever-widening area of the people. Far from being foredoomed, capitalism has thus within it the seeds of its own salvation. This is the revolutionary message labor has constantly from all parts before the workers of the world today.

"Labor has been instrumental in bringing about these orderly reforms which have enabled our American system to adapt itself to fundamental economic and social changes, and to survive drastic ups and downs. It was not turning away from the principles upon which it was founded. We have moved from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy, from a largely rural society to a cosmopolitan society, without losing our democratic ideals and methods.

"This would have surprised many of the founders of our democracy, who, like Jefferson, thought that real liberty and democracy could be maintained in an agrarian society, made up of small landowners."

### PENSION PLANS ANALYZED

Significant benefits to workers in health, welfare and pension plans are analyzed in a new publication, Digest of Selected Health, Insurance, Pension and Welfare Plans Under Collective Bargaining" released by the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### *AFL on Civil Rights*

In the 82d Congress elected Nov. 7, the AFL will seek enactment of a Fair Employment Practices Commission "with enforcement powers on the grounds of discrimination in employment relations are unjust, undemocratic and economically wasteful."

This legislative plank was reaffirmed by the 69th AFL convention in a platform pledges again to full enactment of President Truman's Civil Rights program. The FEPC and Civil Rights issues were sponsored

A. Philip Randolph

and Jim Crowism in labor race or color.

"We want the workers to be accepted upon a basis of character and not color, upon a basis of reason and not race. I believe that is the real spirit of the A.F.L.," he said. "I am proud to record in favor of the Civil Rights program and has made an effective fight for this program."

### *Tells IBEW Country Can Ill Afford Taft & Co.*

Miami, — AFL President William Green told the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' 24th convention that workers expect a standard of post-mobilization living and "we must have enough cars available to take people to and from the jobs. It's a good idea to have cars ready in each precinct.

"We can ill afford the added burden and sacrifice which 6 more years of Taft, Donnell, Millikin, Capehart, Wiley and Co. in the Senate and 2 more years of their counterparts in the House would involve."

"If we are to preserve ourselves for the defense of freedom and democracy, we must elect men to Congress who know what freedom and democracy mean," Mr. Green said.

He said freedom and democracy mean repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law.

"The workers of America stand second to none in their devotion and willingness to lose sacrifice for the common good," Mr. Green said. "But they have the right to expect the assurance that, while they are making sacrifices, others are not profiting by their expense. They have the right to expect that the burden will be equitably distributed, according to relative ability to bear it.

"Thus far they have failed to receive this assurance. They have witnessed the disheartening spectacle of flagrant profiteering and have deliberately soared out of all relation to costs of production.

"They have seen their employers raise the prices of their products as high as the market would stand, and then turn about with pious smirks and wave the flag at the bargaining table.

"Congress has passed an act calling for the imposition of wage controls wherever and whenever prices are put into effect. Prices are being increased to climb unchecked, while wages have largely far behind, subjected to the inroads of inflation. The sentiment has been brought out that would thus be to freeze prices high and wages low. Equality of sacrifice demands that wages be allowed to rise until they have reached a basis of parity with prices, before any wage controls are considered.

"In drafting the Defense Production Act, Congress moved with unusual speed. It was necessary that it be passed before the end of the session. They have not been so anxious about the disastrous spectacle of flagrant profiteering that has been scored

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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
## SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers said:
The working people who are unorganized have no part in determining the affairs of state—they may benefit or suffer from policies but they have no voice in them.

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

# 55,000,000 Voters Wanted at Polls on November 7

**EDITORS:** Mats of these photos should be saved for use in post-election editions. Others will follow.

GEORGE D. AIKEN
Vermont

LISTER HILL
Alabama

OLIN D. JOHNSTON
South Carolina

RUSSELL B. LONG
Louisiana

Washington.—These four friends of the people appeared certain of reelection in the Nov. 7 balloting for the U. S. Senate.

## ICFTU Asks UN to Establish World Price Controls On Key Commodities

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service.

New York.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, representing 50,000,000 organized workers in noncommunist nations, called upon the United Nations to establish strict international price control over primary commodities and raw materials as a major curb upon a threatening world-wide inflationary spiral.

The ICFTU, which has consultative status to the UN, specifically asked that the present session of the Assembly call for meetings of governments of countries which are large producers or consumers of the most important primary products "in order to conclude international agreements."

A resolution embodying this proposal was adopted by the ICFTU Emergency Committee at its recently concluded meeting in Brussels and submitted to UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie by J. H. Oldenbroek, general secretary. The proposal has the support in this country of UN consultants from the American labor movement—Matthew Woll and David Dubinsky for the American Federation of Labor; Philip Murray and Michael Ross for the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The ICFTU declared that "the chief purpose of these agreements should be to keep the prices and markets of primary products, traded in international markets, under strict international control."

The ICFTU said the inflation in primary commodities results from purchases by governments for military purposes, panic-buying and speculative purchases.

### EDITORS DUE

Vienna, Austria.—Nine prominent Austrian labor editors were picked to leave Nov. 1 for a 6-weeks' study trip to the United States.

Sponsored by the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, productivity center and government, the trip is financed by the Economic Cooperation Administration.

Included in the group are Karl Ausch, 57, economic editor of the influential daily, "Arbeitzerzeitung," and Dr. Bernhard Birk, 50, an editor of the "Wiener Zeitung," official Austrian government newspaper.

(ECA in Washington plans to have the group meet with AFL unions and editors.)

## Living Costs Rise In 22 Countries

Geneva.—The cost of living has risen during the past year in 22 countries and dropped in 12, according to the International Labor Office.

Countries where living costs increased more than 2 percent in July or August compared to July or August of a year ago included: Austria, 9 percent; Canada, 4; Ceylon, 7; Denmark, 5; Finland, 15; France, 10; India, 6; Mexico, 4; Netherlands, 10; Norway, 5; Paraguay, 55; Peru, 11; Northern Rhodesia, 4; Southern Rhodesia, 8, and South Africa, 4 percent.

The rise in the United States was less than 2 percent.

## *Vice Presidents' Smiles*

Houston, Tex.—What smiling AFL Vice President William L. McFetridge, Building Service Employes, said at this meeting at the 69th AFL convention made AFL Vice President William C. Birthright, president Barbers Union, laugh heartily.

# Big Vote Means Good Governors, Too

### *State AFL Leagues Can Benefit by Ballot Landslide*

Washington.—A ballot landslide on Nov. 7 can help AFL's Labor's League for Political Education in 35 states where governors are to be elected.

(And most states need a new infusion of liberal administrators to push through liberalization of workmen's and welfare legislation.)

Louis H. Bean, election expert and author of "The Midterm Battle," says that the party vote for the state's congressmen usually corresponds to that for governor.

So, if labor turns out the vote for the congressmen it favors, it is pretty sure of electing the party's governor, too.

"Statistically, one governor is the equivalent of 9 or 10 congressmen," Mr. Bean commented. "A loss of 25 congressional seats by the party in power in midterm elections would tend to be accompanied by a loss of 2 or 3 governorships.

"There is an amazingly close correspondence between the gubernatorial and congressional measures of the political tide," according to Mr. Bean. "The number of votes necessary to elect a governor is about the same number as that cast for the state's congressmen, and usually the party vote for congressmen corresponds to that for governor.

"This proves the long-held assumption that tickets generally are not 'split.'"

Striking battles are in the making in such states as Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and California, Bean notes, but the key to the result is the same in each state—a large turnout on Election Day.

"The Midterm Battle," Bean's third book of election analysis, has been recommended by LLPE.

## Aluminum Workers Win 10% Pay Hike

Louisville, Ky.—The AFL International Council of Aluminum Workers' Unions negotiated 10 percent pay increases for 15,000 employes of Aluminum Company of America and Reynolds Metals Co.

The 10 percent increase won at Aluminum Company of America ranged from 11 to 18 cents per hour with an average 14½ cents an hour gain for 10,000 employes in plants at E. St. Louis, Ill.; Massena, N. Y.; Lafayette, Ind.; Cressona, Pa.; Davenport, Ia.; Chillicothe, O., and Vancouver, Wash.

The 10 percent boost at Reynolds gave 5,000 employes 11 to 18 cents per hour with a 14 cents hourly average boost in plants at Richmond, Va.; St. Louis, Mo.; Louisville, Ky., and Sheffield, Ala.

The raises were reported by Eddie R. Stahl, president of the Aluminum Workers council.

### GERMANY GAINS

Chicago.—Harvey W. Brown, director of labor affairs for the U. S. High Commissioner in Germany, believes "we are making headway" in rebuilding Germany into "a healthy, democratic nation."

He spoke at the general chairmen's meeting of the International Association of Machinists, of which he is past president.

Mr. Brown said extreme rightists as well as the communists are a threat to success of the job America is attempting.

### PLAN CONFERENCE

Washington. — More than 100,000 Americans throughout the nation are working on plans and programs for the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth which meets here Dec. 3-7.

The aim of the conference is to find ways to help children attain the mental, emotional and spiritual qualities essential to individual happiness and to responsible citizenship. Called this year by President Truman, White House conferences have been held every 10 years since 1909, when the first one was called by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Conference planning committee members include Boris Shishkin, American Federation of Labor economist now heading the Economic Cooperation Administration's labor office in Paris.

### MAILS GO TO POT UNDER DONALDSON

Washington. — Here's a concrete example of how the mails are going to pot under Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson's curtailment orders of last April. Labor Press Association sent the following to its subscribers:

"Note to Editors: Because the Post Office Department has delayed delivery of third class mail to as much as 3 weeks, we have arranged for delivery of patterns by first class mail. Hereafter the charge to readers for patterns will be 25 cents plus 5 cents for first class mailing."

Politician's Magic Carpet!

### *LLPE Says Millions of Citizens Eligible to Cast Ballot*

Washington.—Record high numbers of Americans are eligible to vote on Nov. 7.

"So let's make sure," says Labor's League for Political Education, "that as many people as possible get to the polls."

LLPE and other liberals would like to see 55,000,000 voters cast a ballot on next Election Day to insure a progressive Congress.

Thanks to the tremendous job done by AFL local unions and local leagues—in cooperation with other labor and liberal groups—there are more than enough citizens registered to reach that ballot goal.

In 1946—last off-year election—only 35 million persons voted and that 81st Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act over President Truman's veto.

In 1948, more than 48 million citizens voted and the 82d Congress expanded social security, raised the minimum wage and passed a public housing law.

An improvement on that 1948 total vote should guarantee an 83d Congress that will repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

LLPE said that a random check shows record-breaking totals of voters registered nearly everywhere.

In New York City, the 2,808,998 registration is 95,895 more than for any off-year election in history. Figures from 58 upstate cities showed 19,711 more than for 1946.

In Chicago, Democrats and Republicans were astonished at the manpower the AFL and other labor groups mobilized to run up that city's registration figures. Even the Chicago Tribune reported that "union labor served notice of its role in the Nov. 7 election" by this mobilization.

In Indianapolis, registration totaled 282,000 compared to 267,000 in 1948.

Six cities in Ohio showed totals greater than 1948. They are Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, Dayton, and Youngstown.

California rolls reached an all-time 5,250,000, or 200,000 above the 1948 record.

In Pittsburgh, an extra 40,000 had registered and Philadelphia figures about equaled 1948.

A tremendous job was done in registration.

But the payoff is how many vote! Push those plans to completion fast for getting out a record vote on Nov. 7.

## *Baltimore Dedicates School*

### *Baltimore Dedication*

Baltimore.—Harry Cohen, president Maryland-District of Columbia Federation of Labor, displays for banquet guests the plaque placed at the Samuel Gompers Vocational School, so designated in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder and first president of the AFL.

Baltimore.—With state and city officials present and national AFL leaders participating, the Samuel Gompers General Vocational School was dedicated on Oct. 13.

The school, located at North Ave. and Broadway, was given its name "in tribute to Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor."

The plaque marking the school was presented by AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee. The school is said to be the first in the United States formally named for the AFL founder.

Dedication of the structure was a highlight of the public activities of the Baltimore Federation of Labor during Samuel Gompers Week, which was proclaimed by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro in honor of the centennial of the birth of Mr. Gompers.

At the same time the Baltimore Federation called on the board of education to provide the additional teachers needed to meet demands of the growing school population and to increase salaries.

## AFL Wants Better Schools, Says Woll

New York.—The AFL has "wanted, and we have been instrumental in getting, the advanced and more democratic school system we have today; we shall continue to work for a better one tomorrow."

That is the keynote of an address by AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee, which appears in the October issue of "Vital Speeches" magazine.

His address, "Sound Thinking as Essential as Steel," appears along with speeches by President Truman and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The address was made by Mr. Woll at the recent convention of the American Federation of Teachers in Detroit.

"There is no more vital function in a democratic society than education," Mr. Woll told convention delegates. "Even in times of war, as we have learned, sound thinking is as essential to our national welfare as steel. And to develop sound thinking is the responsibility of the men and women you represent."

Tracing the AFL's and Gompers' influence for better schools, Mr. Woll said:

"We in the American Federation of Labor have never been content with the semblance of education. We did not accept public schools that were for the poor alone. We do not accept the counterpart of such schools in any part of the country today. We have wanted, and we have been instrumental in getting, the advanced and more democratic school system we have today. We shall continue to work for a better one tomorrow."

## *Sets Gompers Week*

Baltimore.—Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., presents to C. A. Anstead (left), managing editor the Baltimore Federationist and chairman Baltimore Federation of Labor Gompers Memorial Committee, the proclamation of "Baltimore Samuel Gompers Memorial Week" which featured dedication of a new school named for AFL founder. Looking on are Mrs. Isabelle Hendrickson and Dr. Charles W. Sylvester, assistant superintendent vocational education.

## Turner Tells of ILO At Meetings of AFL

Carlsbad, N. M.—The International Labor Organization has a perfect 31-year history in performing up to the high ideals and great principles of the American Federation of Labor.

This record was described to the New Mexico State Federation of Labor convention by J. C. Turner, labor counselor of the ILO in Washington. He gave similar accounting of the work of the ILO at conventions of the New Jersey Federation of Labor, California Federation of Labor and a meeting of the Salt Lake City, Utah, Central Labor Union.

Mr. Turner said in part:

"In this centennial year of the birth of Samuel Gompers, when we are everywhere reviewing his many contributions to the labor movement, we must recall that the ILO was one of his magnificent visions, a vision of an instrumentality that would raise the standard of life of working people all over the world.

"In the 1914 convention of the AFL, Samuel Gompers introduced and secured the adoption of a resolution authorizing the executive committee to call a general conference of world labor at the conclusion of World War I for the purpose of participating in the writing of the peace treaty.

"Through his friend, Woodrow Wilson, Samuel Gompers was able to persuade the Big Four to agree to labor's participation at Versailles. Accompanied by President William Green and 3 others, Gompers went to the peace conference and was made chairman of the International Labor Commission.

"The commission proposed the constitution of the ILO to the peace conference. And once more, aided by his friend, President Woodrow Wilson, Samuel Gompers helped to overcome the obstacles, and the ILO constitution was made a part of the treaty."

### TWO CONVENTIONS SEE HURRICANE

Miami.—The big conventions of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers weathered the worst hurricane in 24 years Oct. 18.

AFL President William Green, who addressed both conventions, left for Washington just before the city was hit by winds up to 125 miles an hour and pelting rain.

A F L Secretary - Treasurer George Meany, AFL Vice Presidents Harry C. Bates and Dan W. Tracy remained in Miami.

The 2,750 delegates to the IBEW convention offered their services to Miami and Miami Beach in restoring the electric power supply.